

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH AND
SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

June 6, 2006

DCFS MONITORING

In Los Angeles County, nearly 21,000 foster children live away from their families in out-of-home care under the supervision of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). While DCFS conducts monthly visits to each child in foster care, monitoring the safety and quality of the services is varied and inconsistent.

Currently, DCFS and/or the Auditor-Controller conducts extensive program monitoring visit of group homes and FFAs twice a year, whether problems are identified or not. These activities are pursuant to stringent contract requirements with the County. In addition, the State Community Care Licensing does random audits of these sites on either a bi-annual or annual basis.

In contrast, the County's licensed foster family homes are only visited by the State every five years. The County has no jurisdiction over the monitoring of state licensed foster home. It is imperative that we enhance the County's oversight of its State licensed homes, where the majority of County foster children reside to provide oversight for all out-of-home care sites.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to report back in 30 days on a plan to improve existing monitoring resources in a way that will ensure that all out-of-home placement where the

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County's foster children reside will be subject to a consistent, efficient, high quality level of oversight. The report should include:

- Establishing a strong, efficient and consistent monitoring tool for all out of home care sites that focuses on outcomes and avoids duplicative activities,
- Exploring the feasibility of creating an inspection program and the use of State funds to inspect all out-of-home care, similar to the Public Health Facility Inspection Division,
- Working with State Community Care Licensing on granting Los Angeles County enforcement authority and the necessary funding to monitor licensed foster care homes,
- Exploring the feasibility of placing certified foster homes and relative caregivers under the Foster Family Agency (FFA) jurisdiction and/or establishing monitoring and supportive services standards similar to those of the FFAs.

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